

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A screw element as set forth in claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the spring element has projections in the region of the workpiece contact.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A screw having a head in the form of the screw element as set forth in claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein the screw is of a thread-forming nature.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled):

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The screw of claim 9 ~~12~~ wherein the spring element has projections in the region of the workpiece contact

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A screw element having a screw axis, comprising:

- a tool engagement element;

- a spring element having a free edge;

- said spring element being extending from and being integral with the screw element to form one piece;

and is coaxial with the screw axis and mounted on the periphery of the screw element and projects radially from said periphery;

said free edge defining a workpiece contact plane which is substantially perpendicular to the screw axis and is spaced axially from the screw element;

wherein the spring element contacts a workpiece in a region outside the periphery of the screw element and is generally concentric with the screw axis;

wherein the spring element is a ring which is generally concentric around the screw axis;

wherein the ring has a plurality of openings distributed uniformly over its periphery;

wherein the spring element is adapted to prevent the pre-stressing effect for the screw connection being lost by virtue of changes in length thus ensuring sufficient frictional force to prevent the screw connection becoming unscrewed, and

wherein the spring element is of lower hardness than the screw element, and

wherein the spring element has projections in the region of the workpiece contact.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A screw element as set forth in claim 14 42 wherein the spring element forms a workpiece contact which is concentric with the screw axis

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A screw element as set forth in claim 14 42 wherein the spring element is a ring which is concentric around the screw axis.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A screw element as set forth in claim 14 42 wherein the spring element has a workpiece contact which is annular throughout.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A screw element as set forth in claim 14 42 wherein the ring has a plurality of openings distributed uniformly over its periphery.